

Parish Associate

The Parish Associate is a member of the pastoral staff who is focused on providing direct pastoral care to members of the congregation who are living through difficult times. The associate is an extension of the congregation's pastoral staff and participates in worship regularly.

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS

- Maintain a robust ministry of spiritual care to households that are experiencing grief or loss.
- Participate in a weekly pastoral meeting to review needs of the church. Reach out to members of the congregation who may benefit from personal contact with a pastoral caregiver, making residential and hospital visits. Focus especially on elder members in the church.
- Take an active role in leading worship, especially as a liturgist and in presiding at communion, preaching occasionally (4-6 times/year).
- Other duties as assigned by the Senior Pastor.

CORE COMPETENCIES

Compassion and Care: Exudes a natural sense of care for the well-being of others; responds with empathy to the life circumstances of others; communicates a sense of support in his or her very presence; demonstrates appropriate and bounded expressions of care.

Self-Differentiation: Demonstrates strong and appropriate personal boundaries in relationships; has a healthy appreciation of self, without being egotistical; is emotionally mature; can maintain a non-anxious presence in the midst of turmoil; not overly dependent upon outside affirmation; works to build a strong personal support system.

Spiritual Maturity: Shows strong personal depth and spiritual grounding; demonstrates integrity by walking the talk, and by responding with constancy of purpose; is seen by others as trustworthy and authentic; nurtures a rich spiritual life; seeks the wisdom and guidance of appropriate mentors; is able to articulate a clear and consistent theology.

Pastoral Care/Counseling: Demonstrates the ministry of presence; creates a spirit of openness that invites those who are spiritually or emotionally troubled to confide in her/him; demonstrates appropriate pastoral care boundaries, recognizing his or her own limitations as a care provider; respects confidences; appropriately refers congregants along to other professional care providers as warranted.

Visitation: Moves comfortably and easily around those who are ill or suffering; generates a sense of calm, hopeful presence; offers appropriate prayers and facilitates rituals that invite healing; demonstrates appropriate personal boundaries when caring for the ill and dying; stands as a calm, sure presence in the face of death.

QUALIFICATIONS

Ordained ministerial standing in the United Church of Christ; readiness to receive an ordainable call; or ability to receive privilege of call in the United Church of Christ.

In addition to theological formation and preparation for ordained ministry, advanced coursework in pastoral counseling or social work preferred.

Expected Terms of Employment

10-20 Hours/Week

\$15,000-20,000/year

Search Committee

Cameron Barr, Senior Pastor
Ernie Kraybill
Natalie Boorman
Julie Mitchell